(*b*) if so, will Government be pleased to state whether the agriculturists are now getting reasonable price for (*i*) paddy and (*ii*) tapioca;

(*c*) will Government be pleased to state whether they are considering the desirability of leaving such questions as fixing the price of agricultural products to impartial tribunals consisting of producers and consumers of paddy and tapioca.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Prices are generally fixed in consultation with the Food Advisory Council which consists of non-official members representing almost all sections of the people. Government do not think that anything further need be done in this matter.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know what is the total number of members in the Food Advisory Council?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* 17.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know how many represent producers and how many consumers?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice. I cann't say.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Are not all the members of this Committee also consumers?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I am using the term in a technical sense, *i.e.*, those who produce paddy and tapioca and other things.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice. I do not know who, all are producing paddy and who all tapioca.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Am I right in taking that most of them are consumers alone and not producers?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I cann't say.

QUOTA OF SUGAR—PARTICULARS REGARDING

175. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether our State is allowed sufficient quantity of sugar;

(*b*) what was the quantity of sugar allowed to our State during the year 1943;

(*c*) is the Supplies Department allowing applications for sugar made by daily card-holders;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state whether such applications are rejected because there is not sufficient stock of sugar in the State?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) 2,900 tons.

(*c*) Yes. In deserving cases.

(*d*) Does not arise in view of answer to question (c).

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Have the Government made any representations to the Central Government for allowing us increased quota of sugar?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Oh, Yes. We have made repeated representations to the Government of India to allow us an increased quota.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Is there no response from the Central Government yet whether we may get in 1944 an increased quota?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Originally it was less. They have increased it to 2,900. We again pointed out it is inadequate, and we hope our representations will have some effect.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* May I know, Sir, the ration of sugar is allowed to adults and children in our State?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That question was answered yesterday.

Mr. President: That question has been answered already. The hon'ble member's memory seems to be rather short.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* I was not present here perhaps.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Issa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Is there any committee appointed

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by the Government of India for this sugar control ?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government)* : There is a Sugar Controller.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Issa Sait *(Mattancheri)* : Who is representing our State on the committee ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : It is not a committee. It is the Sugar Controller who distributes the quota.

PADDY PURCHASE—GAIN OR LOSS—PARTICULARS OF

176. Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri)* : Will Government be pleased to state the total gain or loss sustained or accrued by paddy purchase in the State in the year 1118?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : It is not possible to furnish the information as details for each trading transaction are not separately available.

Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri)* : May I know whether for the year 1118 we had a loss or gain ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : We have not completed the audit of the accounts. Some more information is necessary regarding foreign purchases. It is not possible therefore to answer it today.

MUNDUR—KOTTUR ROAD

177. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the road connecting Mundur with Kottur—Kottakat has not been recommended to be taken up by the Road Board ;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative why this is not worked till now; (*c*) if in the negative, will Government be pleased to see to this road being opened up in the near future?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Though the road is considered desirable by the Board, funds have not been allotted for this work in the five year programme. The Government, therefore, regret that the work cannot be taken up now.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Will the Government be pleased to state by what year there is any possibility of this work being taken up ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* : After the present Road Board programme ends, that is, nearly 4 years more.

CHALAKKUDI MARKET—VETTUKADAVU ROAD

178. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)* : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any representation to the effect that the road from Vettukadavu to the Chalakkudi market included in the Road Board scheme, should be taken up this year itself,

(*b*) have Government realised the extreme hardship caused to the people of this locality; during the rainy season, on account of the absence of such a road ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No; but there is some inconvenience during the rainy season.

REPORT—SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL OFFICER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

179. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) are Government aware of a report submitted by Mr. Seargent, Special Educational Officer with the Government of India regarding Free Compulsory Primary Education in India;

(*b*) are Government of Cochin in possession of the said report;

(*c*) if Government are not as yet in possession of a copy of the report will they be pleased to obtain one and place the same on the table of the House ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Action will be taken to get down a copy.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know whether subsequent to the preparation of this answer any action has been taken to get down the copy ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : Even before the question was received, a copy had been applied for. Copies were not available. For one thing, the first part had been published and the second part had not been published. I have again sent a reminder asking them whether it is not possible to send me a copy immediately. It is not available for sale yet with any of the book-sellers.

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